

informal drawing

040 U.S. PTO
09/903685
07/13/01

Treatment Chamber Preparation

The treatment chamber temperature, pressure, and relative humidity are stabilized to the ideal treatment parameters for the product to be treated.



Load Treatment Chamber

The product to be treated is placed into the treatment chamber. The door with an airtight seal is closed and the seal is engaged. The product is allowed to equilibrate before processing.



Pressure reduction phase is initiated in treatment chamber

An initial pressure reduction is initiated within the treatment chamber to remove competing gases.



Institute One generation cell(s)

A properly dried and mixed gas mixture is prepared to feed through the Ox generation cell(s) to generate the Ox gas flow.



Gas Flow Back Phase is initiated

The ancillary control valve is adjusted to allow a controlled flow of the Ox gas into the treatment chamber. The pressure, temperature, Ox concentration, and water vapor concentration are controlled.



148

SCANNED, #.

Continued from Page 1



Initiate VVP Process and
maintain critical parameters

The continuous flow VVP phase is allowed to continue for a predetermined amount of time to assure permeation into the product being treated. The pressure, temperature, Ox concentration, and water vapor are carefully monitored and controlled.



Air Purge Phase and scrub
residual Ox Gas

The Ox flow is terminated and the treatment chamber pressure is cycled to flush the treatment chamber of residual Ox gas.

Remove Treated Product

The treated product is removed from the treatment chamber ready for further processing or shipment.



End of Process

FIGURE 1

SCANNED, #

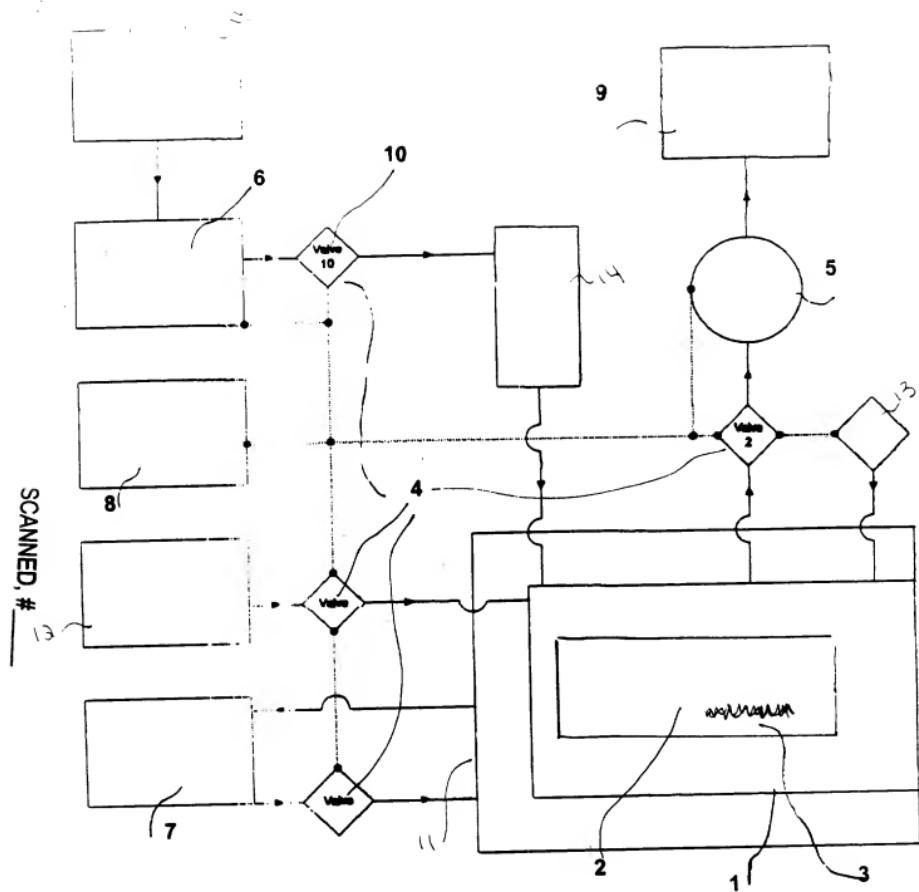


FIGURE 2

SCANNED, #

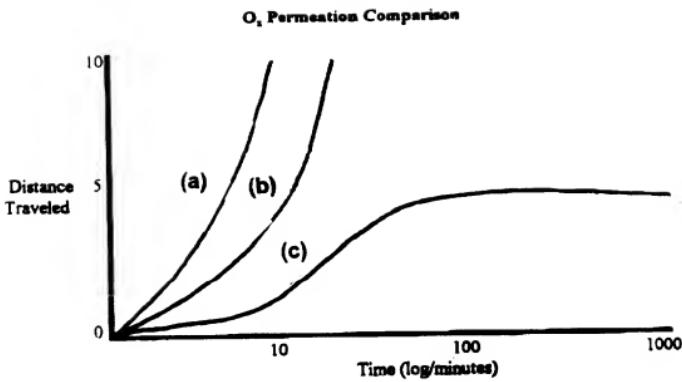


FIGURE 3